which, if maintained, would be useful for the transport of the produce of 800 acres of paddy lands, 3,000 acres of garden lands, etc.

(2) The opening and maintenance of a road leading from the second mile-stone in the Thuckalai-Kulasekharam road to the Padmanabhapuram-Tiruvattar road and also the construction of bridges and culverts on that road. The people of the locality had already opened the necessary trace, but it required further improvement.

(3) The construction of a road from the 2nd mile-stone in the Kulasekharam-Tripparappu road to Tiruvarampu. The Member pointed out that there was sufficient *poramboke* land for the construction of that road.

(4) The construction of a road from the 7th milestone, third furlong, on the Monday Market—Tiruvattar road to the Kumarakudi river.

While on the subject of the construction of roads, the Member dwelt at length on the Ryots' Roads Rules. He pointed out that those rules could be put into operation only in towns where educated people lived and not in out-of-the-way agricultural areas where it was difficult to form ryots' associations for the purpose. Further, he remarked that the economic condition of the people of those localities did not permit them to take up such works and so he requested that they might be taken up and constructed by the Government themselves.

Lastly, the Member referred to the damage caused by wild animals to agriculturists who dwelt in the vicinity of forests. Formerly, such agriculturists were permitted to use fire-arms without license, but that rule was cancelled in Mithunam, 1097. He complained that many of the agriculturists were not aware of the rules regarding licenses and that they had to undergo great hardship in getting licenses from the District Magistrates whose headquarters were far away. He, therefore, submitted that the inhabitants of hilly tracts might receive special consideration from the hands of Government and that they might either be permitted to use fire-arms without license or that a special officer be appointed with powers to issue licenses to them in their own villages.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to ryots' roads, you say that the rules applicable to the construction of such roads should not be made applicable to roads in agricultural parts. In a sense, every part of the country is agricultural, and as such I do not see why the rules should not be availed of by people employed in agriculture. Ryots' roads cannot be constructed in towns, and the rules relating to ryots' roads can apply only to country parts. I do not see any reason why there should be any distinction between one part of the country and another. Village roads, *i. e.*, roads which are not through communications, must, in the first instance, be cut by the ryots themselves. The masonry works required for the completion of these roads, as also their future maintenance, will be undertaken by Government.

In regard to fire-arms, I have said more than once that it is not desirable, in the opinion of the Government, to exempt people from taking out licenses. You have a District Magistrate at Padmanabhapuram to whom you can apply for free licenses. Such applications need not be sent to Trivandrum. If there is any delay in the issue of licenses, the fact may be brought to the notice of Government. Without licenses, fire-arms should not be kept. That rule cannot be altered.

47. Hardships of the ryots of the Neyyattinkara taluk arising from the tanks and irrigation channels in that taluk being left in disrepair.

Mr. Matevan Krishnan (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) spoke about minor irrigation in his taluk, and observed that, though in his opening Address at the eighteenth session of the Assembly, the Dewan had stated that the restoration of minor irrigation tanks in Neyyattinkara would be completed in six years, two years had already passed without any work having been so far carried out. In regard to the cost of the works and the future maintenance of the restored tanks, the Member represented that, if the maintenance was to be attended to by the ryots at their own cost, the expenditure on account of the restoration of the tanks concerned should be wholly borne by the Government. He also urged the desirability of publishing the draft of the revised Rules under the Irrigation Regulation for public criticism, before they were passed by the Government.

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He also observed that, though the grievances of the ryots in the matter of minor irrigation in the taluk were long-standing and though some efforts were put forth by the Government to improve the tanks at the beginning, with the fruition of the Kodayar Project in sight they withdrew the irrigation grants for the taluk, with the result that many tanks had become completely silted up subsequently and the sites of such tanks had been encroached upon and planted with trees. He requested that such encroachments might be completely removed and the tanks restored.

Another matter to which the Member referred was the damage caused, occasionally, to the banks and bunds of irrigation channels by floods. Several causes contributed to the breaking of the banks, such as the growth of trees and weeds on them, preventing the free flow of water, and the narrowness of the channels generally. He prayed that the channels might be widened and the tree and bush growth thereon removed.

The Member then dwelt on the improvement of the Karupatti *chira* in Neyyattinkara and said the restoration of the channel at that place was more important than the restoration of the *chira* itself, but that aspect seemed to have been lost sight of by the Department of Public Works as the *chira* alone was being improved, leaving the channel where it was. He then urged the immediate necessity of restoring the Korandikara sluice, and said that the disrepair of the sluice had been causing untold loss to the ryots.

He also prayed for the improvement of the following roads in the taluk, mainly in the interests of agriculture :—

(1) Peyad-Vellanad trace ;

(2) Mahyankil-Ooruttampalam trace ; and

(3) Nemam-Ooruttampalam trace.

He said that certain culverts and bridges were also necessary to improve these roads and make them more serviceable.

In conclusion, the Member summarised his prayers as follows:—

(*a*) that a sum of not less than Rs. 50,000 be annually set apart for the restoration of minor irrigation works in the Neyyattinkara taluk;

(*b*) that a competent irrigation officer under the direct orders of the Chief Engineer be deputed to attend to the irrigation works in his taluk or in two or three taluks together ;

(*c*) that stringent orders be issued to have the breaches in the *poramboke* channels, etc., repaired immediately ;

(*d*) that an irrigation board be constituted to deal with all matters relating to irrigation in the taluk ;

(*e*) that the Chief Engineer be asked to carry out the repairs to the channel attached to the Karupatti *chira*, provision for the work being made in the budget for 1099 ;

(*f*) that stringent orders be issued to have the Korandikara sluice repaired within a month;

(*g*) that the three roads referred to by him be improved in 1099 or they be improved, one by one, at least in the course of three years ; and

(*h*) that orders be issued to have the trees, etc., planted at the sites of the silted up *poramboke* tanks, removed before the end of the year.

Dewan's reply.—You say that nothing has been spent on minor irrigation in your taluk for the past two years. The blame is yours. You are continuously re-opening settled questions. At a conference held at Neyyattinkara, the ryots consented to contribute three-fourths of the cost of minor irrigation works in the taluk. That question was re-opened, and later on you said that you could contribute only one-half and Government accepted it. Now you say that you cannot pay even that one-half. Government agreed to spend the whole amount in the first instance and you agreed to pay your one-half share with interest. That, again, was objected to by some ryots who said that that moiety should be collected in ten years in instalments

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without interest. We agreed. When these arrangements were placed before the Legislative Council, they were approved by the Council including the Member for Neyyattinkara, and now you say that this arrangement will not do. It is this repeated re-opening of the terms settled from time to time that has been delaying the works. Even now, I am not sure where we stand. You want Government to execute the works. If Government have to incur all the expenditure, it means that they cannot show much result.

As regards the *chira* you mention, money has been allotted in the budget and it is hoped that it will be repaired this year.

With regard to *thodus*, I know that the storm in December has caused considerable damage, and the Chief Engineer has taken the trouble to go round and see the several demages. These *thodus* will be attended to as soon as possible, and as much money as may be found necessary will be spent on them. As for the trees planted on tanks that have silted up, they must go when the tanks are restored. These trees cannot stand in the way of the restoration of the tanks.

48. Difficulties of the ryots of the Nedumangad taluk in re. agriculture and means of communication.

Mr. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) began his representation by thanking the Government for the measures they were proposing to take to remove the difficulties of land-holders. The Member then suggested that the following measures might be adopted to afford further relief to the ryots.

(1) The numerous *chiras* formerly utilised by the ryots for the irrigation of their lands had now been levelled up by squatters and cocoanut and other trees planted thereon. Those encroachments should be removed promptly and the squatters ordered to level down the *chiras* at their own cost. Government should then take upon themselves the responsibility of keeping those *chiras* under proper maintenance. If Government could not incur the whole cost of such maintenance, the ryots interested might be called upon to contribute one-fourth of such cost.

(2) The Member then invited the attention of the Government to the necessity of providing ample grazing ground for the cattle in the Nedumangad taluk and observed that the lands set apart for cattle-grazing had been encroached upon by adjoining land-owners and that it was highly necessary to detect and remove such encroachments. As far as possible all available waste lands in every *pakuthi* should be set apart for the grazing of cattle.

(3) The Member then spoke about the difficulties experienced by the ryots in the matter of securing sufficient green manure for their cultivation. Formerly, there was no cause for complaint, but as more and more lands were brought under cultivation, they had to resort to distant places for green manure. The Government should render some relief in that direction.

Lastly, the Member urged the necessity of maintaining in a satisfactory condition some of the important roads and pathways in his taluk which were now neglected, and invited the attention of the Government and the Department of Public Works to the following roads requiring immediate repair:—

(1) the road leading from the 12th mile stone on the Trivandrum-Ponmudi road and meeting the Trivandrum-Kottarakara road at the 13th mile stone;

(2) the pathway leading from Puttankode to the Trivandrum-Kottarakara road.

(3) The road from Pallode to Vidura.

Dewan's reply.—The roads you referred to are under maintenance and the Chief Engineer says that he will see that they are improved with the help of the maintenance grants and, if necessary, with special grants.

In the matter of restoration of *chiras* and canals, Government issued the following instructions in September, 1922, to the Dewan Peishkars and the Commissioner, Devicolam:—

(1) that the head *chiras* should never be registered, but should be reserved as *porambokes*;

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